



Senator Jim Hughes
16th Ohio Senate District

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**SENATOR HUGHES WINS SUPPORT FOR BILL DECLARING THE
MONTH OF MAY AS “ALS AWARENESS MONTH” IN OHIO**

COLUMBUS—State Senator Jim Hughes (R- Columbus) won the support of his Senate colleagues last Wednesday for Senate Bill 38, legislation that would declare the month of May “ALS Awareness Month” in the state of Ohio. ALS – Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – is often referred to as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease” after the baseball player abruptly retired from the game upon being diagnosed with the disease.

“ALS affects thousands of people each year, and more resources are needed help improve the medical care and services needed for those heroic individuals living with this disease,” Hughes said. “This bill will show our support and help attract even more attention to the issues facing ALS patients, their caregivers and their doctors, especially as we still do not know what causes ALS and treatment options are limited.”

A progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, ALS causes motor neurons to deteriorate and eventually die. Early symptoms of ALS often include increasing muscle weakness, especially in the arms and legs, as well as problems with speech, swallowing or breathing. Patients in later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed.

There is no known cause or cure for the disease and all cases are fatal. It is estimated that a person is diagnosed with ALS every 90 minutes.

Hughes sponsored a similar measure during the 128th General Assembly. Senate Bill 38 now moves to the Ohio House for further consideration.